

March 25th 'Every time I go shaking tufts in the woods something new turns up, but I do not get many species a second time, except of course Tachypori . . . Also some minute coleop. which I am dubious of being able either to identify or set!' Ah, the dreaded Corylophidae and Ptilidae, but undaunted, he had a go!

March 29th 'Have set the minute species fairly well, with aid of woodcock's pinion feather given me by Philpot last meeting. 3 Sericoderus lateralis, 1 Ptenidium.'

1923 June 20th 'To Camber. Bidessus unistriatus turned up in usual old place.' Alas, now long gone beneath a caravan park.

October 2nd 'Elected president of the S.E.N.H.S.'

1924 January 5th 'To Mitcham Com. With C.P. [Cyril Paton, his regular collecting chum] in search of coleopterous and other records for the new year. First beetle – Adalia bipunctata!' Obviously the winter blues were just as strong back then!

July 11th 'The annual Ernobius mollis in bathroom'.

September 27th 'In evening to Blenkarn's. Went with him to Bedwell's. Saw part of his 120 drawer collection. He gave me Claviger testacea'. Terrible thing, drawer envy!!

The final entry for 1924, reads: 'This year I have added 350 species of Coleoptera to my collection, chiefly due to making acquaintance with Blenkarn, Walsh, Williams, Bedwell, Harwood and Cox, from all of whom I have had things, and heard of localities for good species which duly turned up when looked for.'

1925 August 30th 'At Deal. Yesterday and today a large number of beetles have been flying and crawling about everywhere, particularly on the front. Mostly staphs and weevils. On golf links took a series of Heptaulacus sus'.

1926 Feb 20th 'Note from J.Harvey Bloom, to whom I sent Brachinus with fungi attached, to effect that fungi is laboulbenia. Specimen annexed! By BMNH.'

May 4th–15th 'The General strike' and the bad weather prevented any collecting'. Talk about living history!

June 26th 'To Oxshott. Tried for Tigers, but saw only one campestris'. Alas, Cicindella sylvatica was last seen at Oxshott in the late 1960s, but the elusiveness of the Wood tiger beetle remains the same at its other Surrey haunts.

One of the final entries is the most melancholic, and says so much about the matter-of-fact attitude of the day.

1927 Oct 31st 'Blenkarn died from injuries in a collision between his motorcycle and a car at Purley'.

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Amiota rufescens (Oldenberg) (Diptera: Drosophilidae) reared from the fungus *Daldinia fissa* Lloyd in Wales. – In October 2002 I collected three fruiting bodies of the fungus *Daldinia* from scorched dead gorse trunks (*Ulex europaeus* L.) growing near Conwy football ground, SH771783, vice county Caernarfonshire. *Daldinia* in this situation can safely be named *D. fissa* Lloyd (= *vernica* (Schwein) Ces. & De Not.) judging by the British Mycological Society's Fungal Records Database, which

shows 56 records of *D. fissa* on (usually burnt) *Ulex* and only three records from 1930 and 1973 of other *Daldinia* species on *Ulex*, namely *D. concentrica* (Bolton) Ces. & De Not. Until recently, all British *Daldinia* were often assigned to *concentrica*, regardless of host plant (e.g. Hingley, 1971).

The fungi collected were kept in a cool room in a jar. Between late May and 10 June 2003, five drosophilid flies emerged, two males and three females. These were identified as *Amiota leucostoma* Loew using the key by Assis-Fonseca (1965). The more up-to-date key by Bächli *et al.* (2004) led to *A. rufescens* (Oldenberg), confirmed when the dissected genitalia of a male specimen matched their figures 108 and 109. Bächli *et al.* point out that *A. rufescens* has been misidentified as *A. leucostoma* by several authors. The true *leucostoma* Loew is a North American species (Máca, 1980).

This association between *A. rufescens* and *D. fissa* seems not to have been reported before, though *Amiota* spp. have been reared from *Daldinia* 'concentrica' (e.g. Edwards, 1936; Hingley, 1971). Edwards recorded *A. albuguttata* (Wahlberg) from *Daldinia* on burnt birch at Studland Heath, Dorset, but work towards a handbook to British Drosophilidae by P. Beuk and B. Pitkin has led to Edwards' specimens being reidentified as *A. subtusradiata* Duda, a species new to Britain (P.J. Chandler, pers. comm.). Thus the identity of Hingley's reared *A. albuguttata* from scorched birch, oak or gorse at High Woods, East Sussex, should also be checked if possible. Evans (1988) reared *A. basdeni* d'Assis-Fonseca from the related fungus *Hypoxylon rubiginosum* (Pers.) Fr.

The distribution table by Bächli *et al.* (2004), covering northwest Europe, records *A. rufescens* only from Finland. In the text they describe *A. rufescens* as widespread in Europe but rarely collected, and they give no details of its biology. The Fauna Europaea database shows it has been found in Austria, Belarus, Czech Republic, Finland, Hungary, Romania, northwest Russia, Slovakia, Switzerland and the eastern Palaearctic (www.faunaeur.org, 27 June 2006). *Amiota rufescens* was included in the British checklist (Chandler, 1998) because *A. leucostoma* had been included in Assis-Fonseca's 1965 key. British specimens thus labelled have turned out to be misidentified, though the draft handbook (Beuk & Pitkin, in prep.) includes *A. rufescens* on the basis of a male reared from '*Daldinia concentrica*' from Ockham, Surrey (P.J. Chandler, pers. comm.). I have not found any published records of *A. rufescens* in Britain, and there are none in the dataset of Welsh invertebrate records held on Recorder 3 by the Countryside Council for Wales (CCW). Indeed, the Recorder 3 database does not include *A. rufescens* (Oldenberg) or *A. leucostoma* Loew in its species dictionary, though it does contain *A. rufescens* (Fal.) with the comment "Validity of specific status questionable". The Recorder 2002 database contains Chandler's checklist (1998), so it includes both the misidentified *leucostoma* under *rufescens* (Oldenberg) and an invalid preoccupied name *leucostoma* (Becker) as a synonym of *A. albuguttata*. However, Máca (2003) has examined the lectotype of *leucostoma* Becker and found it to belong to *A. albilabris* (Roth in Zetterstedt). This latter synonymy is followed by Bächli *et al.* (2004). This is clearly an area where one could easily allocate a record to the wrong species.

I am grateful to Dr Mike Howe, Countryside Council for Wales, for recognising the specimens as drosophilids, to the CCW library staff for obtaining the recent *Fauna Entomologica Scandinavica* volume, Dr Jan Máca for copies of his papers, Peter Chandler for comments in his role as referee, and David Paull, Norfolk & Norwich Naturalists' Society, and Alistair Crowle, English Nature, for copies of Evans' and Edwards' notes.—JOHN H. BRATTON, 18 New Street, Menai Bridge, Anglesey, LL59 5HN.

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 BOOK REVIEW

Die Zikaden Deutschlands – Bestimmungstabellen für alle Arten by Robert Biedermann & Rolf Niedringhaus. 409 pp. 2004, WABV, Scheeßel, Germany. ISBN 3-00-012806-9. 84.50€

Despite their diversity and abundance in many habitats the leafhoppers and planthoppers (Hemiptera, Auchenorrhyncha) are rather a minority interest. In the British and European fauna they have been generally overlooked and even considered difficult to study. However, over the last 10 years or so there have been some important books published, mostly from Germany and Austria, which have made both the British and Central European fauna much more accessible. Some of these texts are even in English (or bilingual German-English). This latest book is in German only but that should not discourage English speaking (or others for that matter) from using it. It is a most remarkable volume and is an illustrated key to the entire Auchenorrhyncha fauna of Germany (covering 619 species). Almost all the UK species (around 360 species) are included – I think only 6 species present in the UK are not covered.

A short introduction “what constitutes an Auchenorrhynchan”, is followed by a section on biology and ecology, and the collection and preparation of specimens. Clearly labelled drawings show morphology of a typical leafhopper and planthopper. Keys are given to families, and then genera within each family. Each couplet is accompanied by clear, labelled drawings and excellent habitus drawings, (even showing diversity of forms within a genus). The keys are to genera so where these only contain one species the name is given. When each genus contains more species the page is given where species differences are to be found. The format adopted for the book – A4, allows a clear layout of drawings and text. These keys occupy around 100 pages. So far this all sounds normal in taxonomic monographs. The novel part of the book is the largest section, occupying around 240 pages, which comprises tables to species (“artentafeln”). Each A4 page is divided in columns. Each column provides information for one species on habitus (usually an illustration but also notes on comparison), head shape, anal segment, aedeagus structure etc. Host plants are given where known. Literature cited in the column is abbreviated in a simple code. Once